

Date of Meeting: 3 October 2006

**LOUDOUN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ACTION ITEM
BOARD MEMBER INITIATIVE**

#9.

SUBJECT: CPAM-2005-0003 Upper Broad Run / Upper Foley Transition Policy Sub-Areas -
Changes to the Public Hearing Process

INITIATED BY: Jim Burton

ELECTION DISTRICT: Dulles

BACKGROUND:

Staff has scheduled a public hearing for CPAM-2005-0003 Upper Broad Run / Upper Foley Transition Policy Sub-Areas on Tuesday, October 10, 2006 as part of its regular monthly public hearing. Given the extensive public interest in this item and the already full schedule for the October 10th public hearing, such scheduling either significantly limits public comment or ensures an extremely late night or both.

The Board has received numerous emails in the last week requesting that the Board provide the public with two opportunities to speak on this item – an evening and a weekend. The Board has also received numerous complaints over the last year about the process used by the Planning Commission in its hearings and suggestions for improvement. These suggestions include (a) sign-ups by phone or email, (b) full disclosure by speakers of any affiliation with the development or building community, and (c) alternating speaker slots between those supporting and those opposing the CPAM.

There are many precedents for scheduling a separate public hearing for an item: Broadlands Medical Center, the Western Zoning Ordinances, and, of course, the annual budget hearings. There are also precedents for allowing phone sign-up beforehand. These include the public hearings for the Revised Comprehensive Plan in 2001, the public hearings for the Revised

Zoning Ordinances in 2003, and the annual budget hearings. Fairfax County has long required speakers to disclose any affiliations.

The draft motion would address the requests of Loudoun citizens, ensure transparency and fairness in the public hearing, provide greater access to any who might wish to speak on this matter, and allow the Board to give better and fairer consideration to the other items currently on the October 10th Public Hearing schedule.

DRAFT MOTION:

I move that the Board of Supervisors schedule two Public Hearings for CPAM-2005-0003 Upper Broad Run / Upper Foley Transition Policy Sub-Areas, the first to be on an evening separate from its regular monthly public hearing and the second to take place on a Saturday morning. I further move that the Board direct staff to allow speakers to sign up beforehand by telephone as it does for its budget public hearings. I further move that the Board revise the procedures for this public hearing in the following manner: (a) speakers should disclose any affiliations to the development and building community both in their sign-ups and in their comments, (b) speakers should sign up as either a supporter or an opponent to the CPAM, and (c) staff should assign alternative slots to opponents and supporters.

ATTACHMENTS: None

Staff Contact(s): Mary Bathory Vidaver, x2010